

Message Text

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SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA PREPARE FOR WAR SAYS MCBRIDE

REF: (A) STATE 30177, (B) LUSAKA 3302

AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL A, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DECEMBER 10 DAILY
MAIL ARTICLE HEADLINED SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA PREPARE FOR WAR.

"THE RACIST SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NEW WAR PREPARATIONS
TO INVADE ANGOLA NEXT MONTH, UNITED NATIONS UNDER-SECRETARY
GENERAL, MR. SEAN MACBRIDE REVEALED IN LUSAKA YESTERDAY.

"MR. MACBRIDE, IN A STARTLING REVELATION, ALSO TOLD OF A MILITARY
BUILD-UP IN REBEL RHODESIA IN WHICH THE SSMITH REGIME WAS TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT PEACEFUL EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT THREE
AIR FORCE BASES, APPARENTLY IN READINESS FOR A PROLONGED WAR
AGAINST NATIONALIST FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

"SPEAKING IN AN INTERVIEW YESTERDAY, MR. MACBRIDE, WHO IS ALSO
UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA, SAID THE VORSTER REGIME HAD
ALREADY MASSED ABOUT 50,000 TROOPS IN THE CAPRIVE STRIP AND ALONG
THE BORDER WITH ANGOLA, EQUIPPED WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FOR
ITS INTENDED ASSAULT ON ANGOLA.

"EXPLAINING THIS HIDEOUS PLOT, MR. MACBRIDE SAID THAT HE HAD
INFORMATION THAT THE RACISTS WANTED
TO EXECUTE THEIR PLAN BY FIRST
OF ALL SETTING UP A QUISLING INTERIME GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA
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TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

"THIS TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIST OF A MAJORITY PUPPET OF BLACKS AND WHITES WHO WILL BE SUBSERVIENT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

"THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO), WHOSE BASES THE RACISTS BELIEVE ARE IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA BORDERING NAMIBIA, WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNMENT AND WILL THEREFORE FIGHT THE PUPPET REGIME -- AN OBVIOUSLY CLEVERLY WORKED OUT PLAN TO SET BLACK AGAINST BLACK, HE SAID.

"THE RACISTS THEN INTEND TO DESTABILISE THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA BY MOVING IN ITS TROOPS ON THE PRETEXT THAT DR. NETO'S POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA) AND CUBAN TROOPS HAD JOINED SWAPO RANKS TO MAKE ATTACKS AGAINST WHAT THEY WANT TO BE KNOWN AS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA, HE SAID. IT WOULD ALSO USE THE EXCUSE THAT IT WAS CALLED TO ASSIST BY THE "INTERIM GOVERNMENT." 'WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT THESE PLANS BEING HATCHED IN PRETORIA SHOULD MATURE SOMETIME NEXT MONTH.'

" 'I AM VERY CONCERNED. THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS. FROM THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY WE ARE ENTERING A NEW SITUATION WHICH MAY INVOLVE THE DESTABILISATION OF ANGOLA,' HE SAID.

"TALKING OF THE BUILD-UP IN RHODESIA, MR MACBRIDE SAID THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT BY STRENGTHENING THEIR MILITARY MIGHTY, THE REBELS WERE ONLY BUYING TIME.

"THE NEW REBEL AIR FORCE BASES WHICH ARE NEARING COMPLETION ARE ONE SITUATED IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP, THE OTHER NEAR THE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER AND THE OTHER ONE SOMEWHERE IN NORTH WESTERN RHODESIA, HE SAID.

"IT CERTAINLY CONTRADICTS SMITH'S REPORTED INTENTION FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. IT IS ODD THAT HE SHOULD ACCEPT MAJORITY RULE WHILE ENTRENCHING HIS POSITION BY BUILDING NEW BASES IN THE AREA." MR. MACBRIDE SAID.

"MR. MACBRIDE EXPLAINED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY BUILD-UP IN THE CAPRIVI AND ANGOLA STARTED SOME THREE TO FOUR MONTHS AGO BUT WAS INTENSIFIED DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS.

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"THE TROOPS HAVE BROUGHT WITH THEM MODERN WAR EQUIPMENT SUCH AS HELICOPTERS, TANKS AND OTHER SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY, HE SAID.

"HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN, DURING THE PAST TEN DAYS, STATEMENTS BY SOUTH AFRICA DESIGNED AT TRYING TO CREAT AN ATMOSPHERE THAT SWAPO, MPLA AND CUBANS WERE THREATENING TO INVADE NAMIBIA AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD IN THAT EVENT TAKE PREVENTIVE MILITARY ACTION IN EXERCISE OF THAT 'HOT PURSUIT'.

"BUT MR. MACBRIDE WARNED THAT SUCH ANTICS BY THE RACISTS WOULD NOT HOLD BACK THE TIDE OF LIBERATION IN NAMIBIA. UNLIKE THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE, HE SAID, THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE WAS A "VERY SIMPLE ONE' -- THAT SOUTH AFRICA MUST ACCEPT THE DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL FOR FREE ELECTIONS UNDER UN SUPERVISION.

" THIS IS THE ONLY WAY FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH ADEQUATE SAFEGUARD FOR THE MINORITY WHITES CAN BE ACHIEVED,' HE STRESSED.

"IF SOUTH AFRICA PERSISTS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUISLING GOVERNMENT AND ARMSIT, IT WILL BE CREATING THE VERY SCENARIO WHICH EXISTED IN ANGOLA, HE WARNED.

" IT IS THAT KIND OF A SITUATION IN WHICH SWAPO CAN CALL FOR OUTSIDE HELP FROM THE OAU, ANGOLA AND OTHERS.

" 'ALREADY, THE PURSUIT OF POLICY UPON WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAS EMBARKED IN NAMIBIA WOULD SEEM TO ME TO LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARMED CONFLICT IN THE AREA AND AN ULTIMATE CALL FOR OUTSIDE MILITARY INTERVENTION,' HE SAID."

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